

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SS-15 PA-01
PRS-01 PM-05 SP-02 SSO-00 /070 R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:JWHITING:JJ
APPROVED BY P:PHABIB
AF:TSEELYE
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AF:RMOOSE

-----045822 230152Z /63

O R 230107Z JUL 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T STATE 172367

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, US, SO

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE CONCERNING ARMS FOR SOMALIA

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1. WASHINGTON POST REPORTER OBERDORFER TOLD DEP.ASST.SEC.
SEELYE MORNING OF JULY 22 THAT HE HAD INFORMATION FROM
"HIGHLY PLACED ADMINISTRATION SOURCE" THAT USG HAD AGREED
IN PRINCIPLE TO SUPPLY ARMS TO SOMALIA. WHILE SEELYE
CAUTIONED THAT THIS SENSITIVE MATTER, POSSIBILITY OF THIS
INFORMATION BEING PUBLISHED IN NEAR FUTURE IS DISTINCT
POSSIBILITY. NO RPT NO QUESTIONS RAISED AT JULY 22 DEPART-

MENT PRESS BRIEFING ON THIS OR ANY OTHER MATTER RELATED TO SOMALIA OR ETHIOPIA.

2. PRESS GUIDANCE ON IF ASKED BASIS ONLY, PREPARED FOR JULY 22 BRIEFING WAS AS FOLLOWS:

Q. HAS SOMALIA ASKED FOR U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE?

A. THE GOVERNMENT OF SOMALIA HAS RAISED THE POSSIBILITY OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE WITH US AS THEY HAVE, WE UNDERSTAND, WITH A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES. THEIR REQUEST IS BEING STUDIED.

Q. IS THE ADMINISTRATION WILLING TO DELIVER ARMS TO SOMALIA?

A. THE QUESTION OF US ARMS FOR SOMALIA IS ONE WHICH HAS TO BE STUDIED IN THE FRAMEWORK OF OUR OVERALL ARMS TRANSFER POLICY, AND IT IS BEING CONSIDERED IN THAT CONTEXT. WE HAVE NOT, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, SUPPLIED THE ARMS NOW REPORTEDLY BEING USED BY THE ETHNIC SOMALI FORCES IN THE OGADEN FIGHTING.

Q. WHAT IS U.S. POLICY CONCERNING THIRD-COUNTRY TRANSFERS OF U.S. ARMS TO SOMALIA?

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A. NO APPLICATION FOR THIRD-COUNTRY TRANSFERS HAS BEEN MADE, SO THE QUESTION HAS NOT ARISEN.

3. FOR ADDIS ABABA AND MOGADISCIO: WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS AS TO POSSIBLE LOCAL REACTION TO SURFACING OF INFORMATION CONCERNING DECISION IN PRINCIPLE TO SUPPLY ARMS TO SOMALIA AND WHETHER EPMG SHOULD BE INFORMED PRIOR TO ASSUMED PUBLICATION THAT INFORMATION. VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INSTRUCTIONS, THE PRESS, ARMS SHIPMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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